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QUARTERLY

News-Letter

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*Published for its members by The Book Club
of California, 549 Market Street,
San Francisco*

The Book Club of California



FOUNDED IN 1912, The Book Club of California is a non-profit association of booklovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature, and fine printing. Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors in the West and to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books.

The Club is limited to seven hundred and fifty members. When vacancies exist membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and whose applications are approved by the Board of Directors. Regular Membership involves no responsibilities beyond payment of the annual dues of \$12.00. Dues date from the month of the member's election.

Members receive the *Quarterly News-Letter* and all parts of the current keepsake series, *California Clipper Cards*. They have the privilege, but not the obligation, of buying the Club publications which are limited, as a rule, to one copy per member.

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The History of Printing

A Bibliographical Introduction

BY MARION B. ALLEN*

THE HISTORY of printing; the printing of books; letterpress; thus the subject of this bibliography has been narrowed. It has been further defined through consideration of the character and interests of an imagined audience. It is intended for those who like not only the contents of books, but who are curious about the books themselves. The bibliography deals little with materials on technical processes, and not at all with materials on processes other than letterpress. It is exceedingly selective within its declared field, being intended truly as an introduction, a starting point. Chapter I is the author's only solace for all the great omissions. The bibliographies listed here lead on much deeper into printing history and to the study of related subjects; and they lead off into many no-less-interesting byways.

*Member of the staff, University of California Library, and specialist in printing bibliographies.

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I. BIBLIOGRAPHIES

1. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PRINTING. E. C. Bigmore and C. W. H. Wyman. Second edition. New York, P. C. Duschnes, 1945. (2 vols.)

The second edition is a literal reproduction of the first which was published in London by B. Quaritch, 1880-1886. Bigmore and Wyman were London printers and collectors of material on the history and practice of their art. They drew upon their own libraries in making this bibliography, collected information from contemporary printers, and enlisted the aid of leading authorities in other countries. Wyman's own firm printed the work after its first appearance in the periodical *Printing Times and Lithographer*. The annotations are so generous, and the articles on early and contemporary printers so numerous, that the bibliography has some of the characteristics of an encyclopedia of printing history. The many illustrations—printers' marks and reproductions from blocks illustrating rare or famous works—and the historical and bibliographical interest of the authors' comments and articles make this a work for browsing, as well as for consultation.

2. BOOKS AND PRINTING; A SELECTED LIST OF PERIODICALS, 1800-1942. Carolyn F. Ulrich and Karl K  p. Woodstock (Vermont), William E. Rudge; New York, New York Public Library, 1943. (244p.)

Arranged by subject and deals with all aspects of bookmaking, printing, and the book trade. The section for the history of printing lists 250 periodicals, publications of societies, annual reports of libraries, and other serials which regularly or occasionally publish historical articles. American and foreign, dead and alive publications are included. Most of the entries are annotated.

3. THE BOOK: THE STORY OF PRINTING AND BOOKMAKING. Douglas C. McMurtrie. London, Oxford University Press, 1943. (676p.)

Aside from Bigmore and Wyman, now more than sixty years old, there is not a general and comprehensive bibliography for printing history. McMurtrie's bibliographies for each chapter of his book combine to make a good selective list which includes the most important works and is a useful guide to further study.

4. THE INVENTION OF PRINTING; A BIBLIOGRAPHY. Douglas C. McMurtrie, editor. Chicago, Chicago Club of Printing House Craftsmen, 1942. (Prepared as an activity of the Work Projects Administration of Illinois, Chicago Public Library Omnibus Project. Section on Printing Bibliography, cosponsored by the Chicago Club of Printing House Craftsmen.) (413p.)

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After forty-seven items on the Orient, the rest of the bibliography deals with European printing and mainly with Gutenberg and his colleagues and rivals. Lists 3,228 titles.

5. INCUNABULA AND AMERICANA, 1450-1800; A KEY TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY. Margaret Bingham Stillwell. New York, Columbia University Press, 1931. (483p.)

A handbook which discusses the history of bookmaking of the Fifteenth Century, the identification and collation of early books, including early books either about America or printed in America. Noted here for the list of some 600 bibliographies and treatises on incunabula and for the lists of works on Colonial and early United States printing.

6. EARLY PRINTED BOOKS TO THE END OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY; A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES. Theodore Besterman. London, B. Quaritch, 1940. (309p.)

Not a bibliography of writings on printing, but of catalogs of early printed books or of bibliographies of such catalogs. The great importance of the catalogs listed can be quickly stated: These catalogs of books printed during certain years, in certain places, or on certain subjects, are the source books of printing history; the identification and dating of books for the catalogs supply material for new chapters of history, and not until the catalogs are made does the historical pattern appear. Besterman includes a long list of book catalogs on many subjects and an equally long list of catalogs of books printed in various countries and cities. There is a section for exhibition catalogs and for library catalogs of incunabula and early printed books.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PRINTING. Chicago Public Library Omnibus Project. Chicago, Committee on the Invention of Printing, Chicago Club of Printing House Craftsmen, 1940-1941. (Published as a report on Work Projects Administration.)

No. 1. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN DENMARK, SWEDEN AND NORWAY, as compiled in 1861 by Friedrich Lorenz Hoffmann.

No. 2. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIALS ON THE HISTORY OF PRINTING PUBLISHED IN THE NETHERLANDS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, as compiled in 1865-67 by Friedrich Lorenz Hoffmann.

No. 4. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN HOLLAND AND BELGIUM, compiled 1856-58 by Friedrich Lorenz Hoffmann.

No. 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN SWITZ-

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ERLAND, compiled in 1852 by Friedrich Lorenz Hoffmann.

- No. 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIAL ON THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ITALY, compiled in 1852 by Friedrich Lorenz Hoffmann.

The works of Hoffmann, a book censor and bibliographer of Hamburg, were originally published in early bibliographical periodicals and were reprinted in the series above. The only other publication in the series which is of interest here is No. 6, a list of published materials in Russian on the invention of printing.

8. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIAL RELATING TO PRIVATE PRESSES. Irvin Haas. Chicago, Black Cat Press, 1937. (57p.)

Books about individual presses, about designers and publishers of press books; reviews and surveys of fine printing; bibliographies and histories referring to the presses; periodical articles about them. The author calls his work a first effort to collect the material on the subject.

9. THE LITERATURE OF PRINTING. George Parker Winship. (Chapter XV in *A History of the Printed Book, Being the Third Number of the Dolphin*, edited by Lawrence C. Wroth. New York, Limited Editions Club, 1938.)

A bibliographical essay which summarizes printing history and describes many of the important contributions in its recording, and the key works which stimulated further study.

10. THE LITERATURE OF THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN THE UNITED STATES: A SURVEY. George Parker Winship. (In *The Library*, 4th series, v. 3, no. 4, March 1923, p. 288-303.)

The landmarks, described in another of Mr. Winship's bibliographical essays.

II. ENCYCLOPEDIAS, DICTIONARIES, HANDBOOKS

11. LEXIKON DES GESAMTEN BUCHWESENS. Karl Löffler and Joachim Kirchner, editors. Leipzig, Karl W. Hiersemann, 1935. (3 vols.)

Concise articles, often with bibliographical references, are entered under the names of libraries, illustrators, printers, "bookmen" from the Ptolemies on down, periodicals, associations, centers for printing, and a variety of other subjects concerned with books and bookmaking. The nearest approach to an up-to-date, scholarly, encyclopedia now available for the field of printing history.

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12. **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LITERARY AND TYPOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTE; BEING A CHRONOLOGICAL DIGEST OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HISTORY OF LITERATURE AND PRINTING FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.** C. H. Timperley. Second edition. London, Bohn, 1842. (996, 116, and 12p.)
A reissue, with new title page and twelve additional pages, of Timperley's *Dictionary of Printers and Printing*, 1839, and his *Printer's Manual*, 1838. Much of the material has been superseded, but some is still useful and hard to find elsewhere. Events throughout the history of printing are summarized year by year; there is a general index and an index to personal names.
13. **CHRONOLOGY OF BOOKS AND PRINTING.** David Greenhood and Helen Gentry. Revised edition. New York, Macmillan, 1936. (186p.)
Brief mention of important events in the book world year by year, from 300 B.C. to 1935, with an index and a conspectus of type design. An interesting companion to the chronological Timperley published more than a century ago.
14. **DICTIONARY OF THE ART OF PRINTING.** William Savage. London, Longman, Brown, Green, & Longmans, 1841. (815p.)
Gives the origin of many printing terms and is fairly inclusive of older terms.
15. **AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PRINTING.** J. Luther Ringwalt, editor. Philadelphia, Menamin & Ringwalt, 1871. (512p.)
"As an encyclopædia, it aims to traverse the circle of the art to which it relates, and therefore to describe its history, as well as its implements, its processes, and its products."—Introduction. Includes biographical articles, and pays special attention to printing in the United States.
16. **THE BOOKMAN'S GLOSSARY; A COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS.** John A. Holden. New York, R. R. Bowker, 1925. (111p.)
Includes terms from paper-making, binding, illustrating, and publicity work, as well as from printing and publishing.
17. **A CENTURY OF THE ENGLISH BOOK TRADE; SHORT NOTICES OF ALL PRINTERS, STATIONERS, BOOK BINDERS, AND OTHERS . . . FROM . . . 1457 TO . . . 1557.** E. Gordon Duff. London, Bibliographical Society, 1905. (200p.)
No general and comprehensive biographical dictionary for printers exists, but there are various dictionaries for particular countries and states. Succeeding dictionaries of British printers and book-sellers have been published by the Bibliographical Society as follows: 1557-1640, under the general

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editorship of R. B. McKerrow; 1641-1667, edited by Henry R. Plomer; 1668-1725 and 1726-1775, edited by Plomer and others.

18. DEVICES OF THE EARLY PRINTERS, 1457-1560; THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT WITH A CHAPTER ON PORTRAIT FIGURES OF PRINTERS. Hugh William Davies. London, Grafton, 1935. (707p.)

Reproduces and annotates some 250 devices and discusses the subject in general. R. B. McKerrow's *Printers' and Publishers' Devices in England and Scotland*, 1485-1640 (London, Bibliographical Society, 1913) has descriptions and facsimiles of 428 devices, with information about the printers who used them.

19. A TYPOGRAPHICAL GAZETTEER. Henry Cotton. Second edition. Oxford, University Press, 1831. (393p.)

Under the names of towns, which are usually entered in the Latin or other foreign form as they appear in the imprint of early books, are notes of the earliest printing there, or of outstanding events in printing history. A *Second Series*, published in 1866, enters many American towns and notes early newspapers. The books are not systematically cross referenced, nor are they by any means exhaustive. They publish Cotton's notes collected in the course of his work as a librarian and they are a contribution to the geography of printing.

20. AN INTRODUCTION TO BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR LITERARY STUDENTS. Ronald B. McKerrow. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1927. (358p.)

Although the author states that this is not a handbook for students of printing, but for students of literature, it contains too much of value for a beginner in printing history to miss: information about changes in techniques of printing, about the way books are made, about evidence to look for in the books themselves to illuminate the history of their printing. Some introductory material on matters related to printing and not emphasized elsewhere in this bibliography is available in McKerrow's book; for example, discussions of paper, including watermarks, of illustration and the decoration of books, of publishers' bindings.

III. THE ART AND ITS HISTORY

GENERAL HISTORIES—

21. A HISTORY OF THE PRINTED BOOK, BEING THE THIRD NUMBER OF THE DOLPHIN. Lawrence C. Wroth, editor. New York, Limited Editions Club, 1938. (507p.)

Sections on the development of printing in each century, on the printing house and its tools and practices, and on the decoration of the book. A scholarly work, with bibliographies and fine illustrations; each chapter is by a specialist in the field.

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22. THE BOOK: THE STORY OF PRINTING AND BOOKMAKING. Douglas C. McMurtrie. Third revised edition under this title. London, Oxford University Press, 1943. (676p.)
An excellent general history. McMurtrie is not an infallible scholar but his contributions to the history of printing are very great. He has discovered and/or recorded innumerable facts about printing in many parts of the world. Charles F. Heartman has compiled a bibliography of McMurtrie's separately printed writings: *McMurtrie Imprints* (Hattiesburg, Miss., The Book Farm, 1942.)
23. PRINTING, A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ART. R. A. Peddie and others. London, Grafton, 1927. (390p.)
A general comprehensive survey in concise and handy form. Chapters by authorities.
24. FINE BOOKS. Alfred W. Pollard. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912. (331p.)
One of England's greatest bibliographers surveys fine books from the earliest European printing to the end of the Nineteenth Century.
25. THE ENGLISH BOOK TRADE; AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE MAKING AND SALE OF BOOKS. Marjorie Plant. New York, R. R. Bowker, 1939. (500p.)

EARLIEST DAYS—

26. THE INVENTION OF PRINTING IN CHINA AND ITS SPREAD WESTWARD. Thomas F. Carter. Revised edition. New York, Columbia University Press, 1931. (282p.)
27. THE STUDY OF INCUNABULA. Konrad Haebler. Translated from the German by Lucy Eugenia Osborne. New York, The Grolier Club, 1933. (241p.)
The chapter "History and Literature" describes the work of the bibliographers who began the systematic study of European printing history, and of those who established scientific techniques for the identification of early printed books. Haebler himself is among the latter, and no student of the history of printing will want to miss his handbook to the study of Fifteenth Century books.
28. INCUNABULA AND AMERICANA, 1450-1800; A KEY TO BIBLIOGRAPHICAL STUDY. Margaret Bingham Stillwell. New York, Columbia University Press, 1931. (483p.)
Like Haebler, Miss Stillwell discusses the great catalogs of early printed books. She also sketches the early history of printing in America, and notes the historians and bibliographers responsible for its recording.

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29. MOXON'S MECHANIK EXERCISES, OR, THE DOCTRINE OF HANDY-
WORKS APPLIED TO THE ART OF PRINTING. Joseph Moxon.
New York, The Typothetæ of the City of New York, 1896.
(2 vols.)

A literal reprint, with added preface and notes by Theodore DeVinne, of the first edition (1683) of the first English textbook of printing. Moxon provides an excellent description of the art of printing in the Seventeenth Century, of the printing house and its equipment, and of early trade customs; for example, the annual festival of London master printers and journeymen.

30. BOOKS AND THEIR MAKERS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES; A
STUDY OF THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE
FROM THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE CLOSE OF THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. George Haven Putnam. New York,
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896-97. (2 vols.)

The second volume deals with the activities and influence of the printer-publishers from 1500 to 1709, and discusses developments in the printing and publishing business.

PRINTING IN AMERICA—

31. THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN AMERICA, WITH A BIOGRAPHY
OF PRINTERS AND AN ACCOUNT OF NEWSPAPERS. Isaiah Thomas.
Second edition, with the author's corrections and additions
and a catalog of American publications previous to the Revo-
lution of 1776. Published under the supervision of a special
committee of the American Antiquarian Society. Albany,
Joel Munsell, 1874. (*Archæologia Americana*. Transactions
and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, v. 5
and 6.)

The first edition of this first and still important history of American printing appeared in 1810. The author is one of the greatest of early American printers and the founder of the American Antiquarian Society.

32. PRINTING IN THE AMERICAS. John Clyde Oswald. New York,
Gregg, 1937. (565p.)

Sections devoted to Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and the islands of the Western Hemisphere—for example Greenland—as well as to the United States. The arrangement is mainly geographical. There is an index but no bibliography.

33. A HISTORY OF PRINTING IN THE UNITED STATES: VOLUME TWO,
MIDDLE AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES. Douglas C. McMur-
trie. New York, R. R. Bowker, 1936. (462p.)

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This is the only volume published in what was to have been a comprehensive history of the introduction and influence of the press in each state.

34. THE COLONIAL PRINTER. Lawrence C. Wroth. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Portland (Maine), Southworth-Anthoensen Press, 1938. (368p.)

An "investigation of the Colonial American printing trade," which describes printers' establishments and activities and the conditions under which they were carried on. Tools and materials of printers in the thirteen Colonies, shop procedure, labor conditions, the nature of the products, and the remuneration received.

35. THE BOOK IN AMERICA; A HISTORY OF THE MAKING, THE SELLING, AND THE COLLECTING OF BOOKS IN THE UNITED STATES. Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, Ruth Granniss, and Lawrence C. Wroth. New York, R. R. Bowker, 1939. (453p.)

Written at the request of the editors of the *Lexikon des Gesamten Buchwesens*, who, when they came to compile material on American developments, found little dependable information. The 1937 edition was published in German in Leipzig, and was revised for American publication.

TYPOGRAPHY—

36. PRINTING TYPES, THEIR HISTORY, FORMS, AND USE; A STUDY IN SURVIVALS. Daniel Berkeley Updike. Second edition. Cambridge (Mass.), Harvard University Press, 1937. (2 vols.)

The one essential book on the subject. After a brief consideration of the invention of printing and of printing techniques, of the Latin alphabet and of manuscript book-hands, Mr. Updike discusses the chief varieties of type from 1500 on, in Europe and America. He accents the historic, literary, and artistic aspects of his subject, rather than the technical, and succeeds in his stated purpose, "to supply a basis for the intelligent appreciation of the best printing types . . ."

37. TYPE DESIGNS: THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT. A. F. Johnson. London, Grafton, 1934. (232p.)

An excellent history of the various important kinds of type.

38. FOUR CENTURIES OF FINE PRINTING: UPWARDS OF SIX HUNDRED EXAMPLES OF THE WORK OF PRESSES ESTABLISHED DURING THE YEARS 1500 TO 1914. With an introductory text and indexes by Stanley Morison. London, Ernest Benn, 1924.

A beautifully printed folio volume, with all but one of the reproductions in the size of the originals. Plates show European and American printing century by century, in examples chosen to illustrate the development of style in typography in the roman letter, and to show individual, consistent,

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appropriate use of sound material. Prefaced by Mr. Morison's fine essay on the history of printing types.

39. MODERN FINE PRINTING; AN EXHIBIT OF PRINTING ISSUED IN ENGLAND, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, CZECHO-SLOVAKIA, HOLLAND AND SWEDEN DURING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AND WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR. Stanley Morison. London, Ernest Benn, 1925.

A folio volume of plates showing printing since 1914, companion to the work listed just above.

40. TYPES, BORDERS AND MISCELLANY OF TAYLOR & TAYLOR, WITH HISTORICAL BREVITIES ON THEIR DERIVATION AND USE. San Francisco, Taylor & Taylor, 1939. (563p.)

This type-specimen book and the one that follows, one American and one English, have been selected to represent a large group of such works. These are particularly handsome; they illustrate good book types, supplementing each other to some extent; and both include a little of the history of each type shown. Taylor & Taylor's specimens are those which the firm considers to have produced its most distinguished printing.

41. A HANDBOOK OF PRINTING TYPES WITH NOTES ON THE STYLE OF COMPOSITION AND GRAPHIC PROCESSES USED BY COWELL'S. Second edition. Ipswich (England), W. S. Cowell, 1948. (115p.)

Nine book faces "adequate for all normal purposes," shown in the alphabet and in sample pages of text composition. Includes several useful faces not illustrated in Taylor & Taylor's book, with sketches of their history and their uses.

The Club Library

THE RESPONSE to the questionnaire sent our members last month has been most gratifying and the results interesting. Two hundred and six members took the trouble to state their preference (with remarks) as to the type and/or types of books which they felt were most needed in forming a Club library.

Here are the replies broken down into the four categories listed:

Bibliographies	108
Books about Books	120
Books on Printing and Presses	117
Examples of Western Printing	158

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As we wrote in our letter accompanying the questionnaire, the Club will be most grateful for the offer of any books which fit into the above-mentioned classifications. (But to avoid duplication please let us know what you plan to give before sending.) The Club is, as you know, a nonprofit organization and there is little money in the treasury to spend on the library; so we are hoping that members will give generously to a cause which will eventually benefit all. And, of course, if you haven't the books to give, there is nothing in the by-laws that says a check may not be accepted.

The Club is already fairly well off in examples of Western printing, owning, among others, a complete file of its own publications. However, there are many basic books in the other classifications which should be on the shelves: Brunet's and Lowndes' *Bibliographer's Manual*, for example; and, of perhaps more local interest, bibliographies of John Henry Nash, the Grabhorn brothers, and other Western presses.

The library will be greatly benefited by the services of Mrs. Virginia C. Parker, a trained librarian, who has generously offered her time to set up a card index file and advise generally on technical matters.

It is very gratifying to find members already offering books to the Club from their own libraries. Listed below are the items received so far and the names of the donors. Future *News-Letters* will record further gifts as they are offered.

Books received through November 10, 1949:

GIFT

The Club of Odd Volumes *Year Book* 1949
Sleuthing in the Stacks, Rudolph Altrocchi
The Fraser Mines Vindicated, Alfred Waddington—
Reprinted with Introduction by W. Kaye Lamb,
Dominion Archivist
Fifteen Letters by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Translated by Bayard Quincy Morgan
A Privacy of Speech, William Everson

Hades & Jades, P. K. Thomajan
Designed by Merle Armitage
Lafcadio Hearn, A Bibliography of His Writings,
P. D. & Ione Perkins
Type Specimen Books (both U. S. and foreign)

DONOR

Club of Odd Volumes
Herman H. Rosenthal

Private Press of
Robert R. Reid
Jack Stauffacher of
The Greenwood Press
William Everson,
The Equinox Press
P. K. Thomajan and
Merle Armitage

Oscar Lewis
Carroll T. Harris

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The following have been donated by Flodden W. Heron:

Recreations of a Book Lover, Frederick MacDonald
The Romance of Modern First Editions, Henry de Halsalle
How to Collect Books, J. H. Slater
Books and Bidders, A. S. W. Rosenbach
Memories of Books and Places, J. A. Hamerton
First Nights and First Editions, Harry B. Smith
Collector's Choice, John T. Winterich
Amenities of Book Collecting, A. Edward Newton
Ventures in Book Collecting, William Harris Arnold
Memoirs of Life and Literature, W. H. Mallock
Fishers of Books, Barton Currie
Books and The Man, John T. Winterich
The Book Lover, James Baldwin
The Personal Library, Haslehurst Greaves
The Private Library, A. J. Humphries
Books and Bookmen, A. Lang
Books and Persons, Arnold Bennett
Primer of Book Collecting, Winterich and Randall
Some Book Hunting Adventures, R. S. Garnett
The Savage Club (London), Aaron Watson
The Golden Book, Douglas C. McMurtrie
The Bibliophile Society (in slipcase)
The Book Collector, W. Carew Hazlitt
Penny Wise and Book Foolish, Vincent Starrett
The Colophon Vol. 1, No. 2 and Vol. 2, No. 2

Sponsors of the *French Art of the Book* exhibit have presented the Club with \$239.76, which represents the balance in the fund contributed to support this March show held at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. As most of the exhibit sponsors are members of the Club, those in charge voted to donate this balance to further the project of renovating Club quarters and establishing a library. It is hoped that the sponsors will visit the Club and see the good use to which this money has been put.

☞ News of Club Publications

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK

THE CLUB'S CHRISTMAS BOOK is now in preparation and a full description, together with an order card, will be sent members soon. While all the details have not yet been worked out, it is now possible to announce that the book will

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consist of an extended essay dealing with the lives and works of the Estiennes, the celebrated family of French typographers who, through the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, made so many notable contributions both to scholarship and to the printing craft.

In addition to the text, each copy of the book will contain three original leaves printed by the Estiennes: The first by Henri I who founded the line; the second by Robert (1503-1559), and the third by Henri II (1531-1598), the latter being from one of the first books printed in the famous Royal Greek type designed by Claude Garamond. The book is being printed by the Grabhorn Press and will contain an introduction by Robert Grabhorn.

The edition will be approximately 375 copies; the price will not exceed \$15.00; and, because of the anticipated demand, initial orders will be limited to one copy to each member.

THE MOTHER OF FELIPE AND OTHER EARLY STORIES,

by Mary Austin

Plans are maturing for the publication of several books that should appeal to the varied interests of members. Early in 1950, members will receive the announcement of a reprint of five short stories by Mary Austin which appeared in *Out West*, *Overland Monthly*, and in the *Spinners' Book of Fiction*.

Franklin D. Walker, author of *San Francisco's Literary Frontier*, and Professor of American Literature at Mills College, has selected the titles and has written an appropriate introduction.

The book is being designed and printed at the Anderson and Ritchie Press, Los Angeles. The layout gives assurance that the volume will be exceptionally attractive.

GEORGE CLYMER AND THE COLUMBIAN PRESS, by Jacob Kainen

An unusual opportunity has come to the Club to participate in the publication of a definitive biography of George Clymer, the designer of the Columbian Press, which, in 1816, was acclaimed in America, in England and on the Continent, as the first major change from the screw-type hand press used since the days of Gutenberg. The work is to be published by The Typophiles as their CHAP BOOK No. 23. Three hundred and fifty copies will bear the imprint of The Book Club of California and will be available to members, few of whom are subscribers to the New York organization. The monograph has been written by Jacob Kainen, Curator of the Division of Graphic Arts of the Smithsonian Institution.

The book is being designed and printed by Taylor and Taylor of San Francisco. Members will receive an announcement in the Spring.

Incidentally, of these Columbian hand presses, only three are known to be in the United States: There is one at the Ford Museum at Dearborn and the other two are in San Francisco. Taylor and Taylor has had one for many years. The other is owned by J. E. Jones, manager of the Brintnall Printing Supply Co.

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☞ Club Books as Holiday Gifts

THE ATTENTION of members is called to the desirability of selecting publications of the Club for use as Holiday gifts. If desired, the books will be forwarded direct from the Club, with the donor's name or card included for delivery by Christmas.

The following are available, but, as some of these books are in very limited quantities, deliveries cannot be guaranteed unless orders are placed immediately.

THE MINERS' OWN BOOK. Correct Illustrations and Descriptions of the Various Modes of California Mining, Including All the Improvements Introduced from the Earliest Day to the Present Time. From booklet published by Hutchings and Rosenfield, 1858. 24 illustrations by Charles Nahl. 11 x 7. 50 pages. Bound in decorated boards, cloth spine. 500 copies printed by The Greenwood Press, May 1949. \$4.50

ACE HIGH, THE 'FRISCO DETECTIVE, or The Girl Sport's Double Game, by C. E. Tripp. Reprinted from Beadle's Half-dime Library, Number 814, February 28, 1893. Introduction by David Magee. 12¼ x 8½. 56 pages. Bound in specially designed decorated boards, cloth spine. 500 copies printed by The Grabhorn Press, December, 1948. (One of *Fifty Books of the Year*.) \$8.50

13 CALIFORNIA TOWNS. Drawings by unknown artist of early '50's, reproduced in original size. Text by Edith M. Coulter and Eleanor Bancroft. Towns pictured: Folsom, Benicia, Vallejo and Mare Island, Martinez, Alviso, Santa Cruz, San Juan Bautista, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, San Diego. 11½ x 17½. 60 pages. Bound in marbled paper boards, cloth spine. 300 copies printed by The Grabhorn Press, December, 1947. \$16.50

THE FINAL STANZA. A Hitherto Unpublished Chapter of *That Man Heine* by Lewis Browne. Foreword by the author. 8 x 5¾. 20 pages. Bound in boards, parchment back. 300 copies, signed by the author, printed by Johnck & Seeger, 1929. \$1.17

CONTINENT'S END: An Anthology of Contemporary California Poets. Introductions by George Sterling, Genevieve Taggard, and James Rorty. 9¾ x 6½. 275 pages. Bound in paper boards, goatskin back. 500 copies printed by John Henry Nash, 1925. \$5.00

☞ Exhibitions at Club's Offices

IN CONNECTION with the opening of the "new" Club offices on Saturdays, the exhibition committee has set up a series of shows on the art of the printed word and of the book—one a month for twelve months. The first show, coincident with the Saturday opening, was a collection of *Western Fine Printing* (October 8 to November 5); the second was a collection of *Writing Books*, illustrating the history of writing from a Babylonian tablet of 350 B.C. to contemporary calligra-

Quarterly News-Letter

phy (November 5 to December 3); the third, and current show, is on *Modern Artists as Illustrators*, being a collection of French, English, and American fine artists' work as decorators and illustrators of books (December 3, 1949 to January 7, 1950); the fourth, a collection of *Modern Continental Fine Printing* (January 7 to February 4); the fifth, a collection of *Modern English Fine Printing* (February 4 to March 4); and the sixth, an exhibit of work related to the art of the book by members of The Book Club of California (March 4 to April 1). For this show, we invite members to loan to the Club examples of their work in printing, designing, and bookbinding. Unfortunately, for want of space, we cannot show more than one sample of each member's work. Either mail or bring your exhibit to Mrs. Elizabeth Downs, secretary of the Book Club. You may pick up your material from the Club secretary on or after April 1.

The next four shows, bringing the total to ten, will be announced in the Spring *News-Letter*; and the last two, in the Summer issue.

The Saturday opening, so far, has met with a good deal of success and we are particularly pleased with the number of out-of-town members and their guests who have visited the new Club rooms. These exhibitions have been arranged to make your Saturday open-house visit a pleasant one. Your committee invites suggestions and even criticism, hoping, thereby, to make these shows better and more interesting to you.

☪ Elected to Membership

The following have been elected to membership since the fall issue of the News-Letter:

MEMBER	ADDRESS	SPONSOR
E. Geoffrey Bangs	Piedmont	Miss Edith M. Coulter
James E. Beard	St. Helena	Carroll T. Harris
Mrs. Herman B. Bercow	Brooklyn, New York	H. H. Rosenthal
William C. Berry	Portland, Oregon	John W. McConnell
Mrs. Roland P. Chessé	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Robert G. Cleland	San Marino	Oscar Lewis
George W. Cohen	Beverly Hills	Henry Herzbrun
Robert W. Garrett	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Phil Grant	Berkeley	Mrs. Carrie C. Autrey
Wright Howes	Chicago, Illinois	Garfield D. Merner
Miss Marion L. Jackson	Cambridge, Mass.	Joseph Henry Jackson
W. W. Jenney, M.D.	Los Angeles	William L. Butler
Alson R. Kilgore, M.D.	San Francisco	Miss Constance Spencer
Roy M. McDonald	San Francisco	Carroll T. Harris
Robert N. Morgan	Pasadena	Charles Yale
Mrs. Carl W. Stern	San Francisco	Mrs. John I. Walter
Charles M. Stine	Osceola Mills, Pa.	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Miss Amy Thompson	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Thompson S. Weikel	San Francisco	Louis Ferbrache
New York Historical Society	New York, New York	Charles Eberstadt

MEMBERSHIPS AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Memberships may be presented as Christmas gifts as long as vacancies exist.

The Book Club of California

Attractively printed cards are mailed to members so elected together with the *California Clipper Card* keepsakes and the last issue of the *News-Letter*.

1949 Keepsakes

DURING THIS MONTH of December, the last four of the Club's *California Clipper Card* keepsakes will be in the mail, bringing to a close another epic series and probably the most expensive keepsakes that the Club has ever undertaken.

We believe that this notable series will be the most highly prized (and priced) of any that we have so far issued. We are thankful to the editor-in-chief, John H. Kemble, for a remarkable job in editing and in getting outstanding authorities all over America to contribute articles on the various ships. We are proud, too, of the "magic" of the Grabhorns in producing another typographical collectors' item for us.

A number of members have requested duplicate copies of the clipper cards. In order to help offset the unusual costs involved in the production of the series, the committee had 100 extra sets printed with this in mind. However, due to the influx of new members, only forty-five of these sets will be available. They also may be ordered at this time. The cost is \$6.00 per set, plus the slipcase cost, if a case is desired.

An equally interesting and unusual Keepsake series has been planned for 1950. Details will be announced shortly.

THE WELLS FARGO HISTORY ROOM

located in the Bank's building at 30 Montgomery Street, contains relics of pony-express and covered-wagon days; an original Hangtown stagecoach; early western franks and postmarks, firearms, pictures, and documents. Open to visitors 10 to 3 daily, 10 to 12 Saturdays.

WELLS FARGO BANK & UNION TRUST CO.

SAN FRANCISCO : ESTABLISHED 1852

Quarterly News-Letter

C Miscellany

California Heritage, the newly published book by Oscar Lewis, presents an unusual and highly interesting pictorial survey of California, being illustrated by a remarkable collection of rare early maps, documents, lithographs, and seldom encountered photographs. Entertainingly written and handsome in format, it traces the evolution of the State from its storied beginnings through the successive eras of the missions, the Spanish ranchos, the American annexation and later developments, bringing vividly before the reader the life and color of California's drama-packed heritage.

A CENTENNIAL GOLD RUSH exhibit has been featured for the past year at The New York Historical Society: it is comprised of items owned by the society and loaned by their treasurer, Thomas W. Streeter. Much interest has been aroused by the rarity and extent of the manuscripts, books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, paintings, and the many other exhibit articles. A check list of these has been prepared and may be had by writing to the society at Central Park West and 77th Street, New York 24.

THE ROUNCE & COFFIN CLUB's exhibition of Western Books, now on tour, lists the following schedule for the next few months: Nov. 30-Dec. 16, Occidental College, Los Angeles; Jan. 9-25, Pomona Public Library; Jan. 28-Feb. 14, Claremont College, Claremont; Feb. 17-Mar. 5, California Institute of Tech-

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The Book Club of California

nology, Pasadena; Mar. 8-24, Pasadena Public Library. For this year's show, Saul and Lillian Marks of the Plantin Press in Los Angeles, have printed an attractive catalog listing and describing the fifty-four books which were selected as the best of western printing; copies may be had for 25 cents by writing to Rounce & Coffin Club, 2205 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 7.

CLUB MEMBER Robert R. Reid of Vancouver, B. C., amateur printer and collector, was one of our visitors during October. He very graciously presented the Club with a copy of his first printed book, *Fraser Mines Vindicated*, a reprint of the 1858 edition. This is a most ambitious book for a first book: 93 pages hand-set in Caslon Old Style and printed on an 8 x 12 foot press in an edition limited to 110 copies. Even the marbled papers used for binding were made by Mr. Reid.

We were delighted to add this book to our exhibition of *Western Fine Printing* and to include it now in our permanent collection.

California Local History: A Centennial Bibliography is planned for publication in June 1950 by the California Library Association. As the first extensive bibliography of California history since Cowan's 1933 book, it will list local and county history items to the extent of 5,000 entries. To insure publication, advance orders are imperative; those received before December 15, 1949, will be billed at the special price of \$6.50; subsequent orders will be priced at \$10.00. Orders may be sent to the California Library Association, 829 Coventry Road, Berkeley 7, California.

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA printers will feature an exhibit of all types of graphic arts reproduction processes as one of the principal portions of their celebration of National Printing Week January 15th through the 21st. The exhibit will be held in the auditorium of the Emporium beginning Monday, January 16 and running through the following Saturday. The show will occupy nearly 3,500 square feet of floor space and will be open daily from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

In addition to the Emporium display, other department stores and book shops are planning window exhibits featuring fine press books.

THE CLUB'S TREASURER, Colonel Carroll T. Harris, has just been awarded the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of the Republic of France, for his work in organizing the "French Art of the Book" exhibit held here last April at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. The presentation was made by Jean de Lagarde, Consul General of France. Colonel Harris is president of Mackenzie & Harris, Inc., typographers and type founders.

AN EXTREMELY attractive, already out-of-print item from the New Harmony Press of San Francisco, Arlen Philpott, Prop., is No. 1 of a projected series of pamphlets: *The Story of Centaur*, by Robert Grabhorn. No. 2 will be *The Printed Book* by Edwin Grabhorn. Mr. Philpott is apprentice-printer at the Grabhorn Press which may possibly account for his first two selections; but a choice with which, in any event, no bibliophile will quarrel. If the rest of this series is up to No. 1 in standard of all-around excellence, these will indeed some day be cherished collectors' items.

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The Book Club of California

FOR SEVERAL DECADES following the revival of printing at the turn of the century, American private presses were most active in the New York and New England areas; today, California is the center of this activity. This fact was voiced to one of your editors during a recent tour of eastern printing houses, libraries, and book stores. However, your correspondent visited one private press which is producing particularly fine books. This is the Cummington Press, operated by Harry Duncan and Wightman Williams at the Cummington School of the Arts, Cummington, Massachusetts. Perhaps they are idealists; certainly they are artists, craftsmen, and perfectionists. Their books are hand-set in faces of real merit, Poliphilus and Centaur; they are printed with a hand press on dampened, handmade paper. *The Hovering Fly & Other Essays* by Allen Tate, just completed, may be compared favorably with the top books of English and American private presses of the early Twentieth Century.

These printers are creating a type of book which cannot be produced through automatic high-speed processes which dominate the hand processes. If book collectors desire a continuance of truly fine book-making, they will interest themselves in private presses such as Cummington.

JACK STAUFFACHER of the Greenwood Press of San Francisco recently printed and published a delightful little book entitled *Fifteen Letters by Goethe from Switzerland*, written about 1775. Stauffacher, a Goethe enthusiast, has been highly successful in the design, craftsmanship, and choice of materials. Two hundred fifty copies were issued, and the price, \$4.50.

Literary Landmarks for Californians

THREE YEARS IN CALIFORNIA by Walter Colton

Edited by Marguerite Eyer Wilbur

The famous journal by the first American alcalde of Monterey, first published a hundred years ago and here reprinted with editorial annotation and introduction. Illustrated. \$5.00

HAPPIER FOR HIS PRESENCE by Anne Roller Issler

San Francisco and Robert Louis Stevenson

A skillful biography that gives particular attention to the people, places, and events that influenced Stevenson in the city that was "happier for his presence." Illustrated. \$3.50

AT YOUR BOOKSTORE

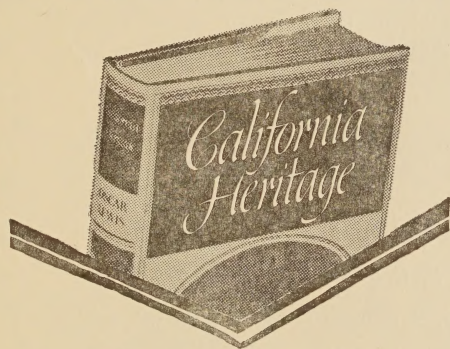
Stanford University Press

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Quarterly News-Letter

THE RENOWNED Albion hand press, used by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press in 1896 to print the monumental *Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, has known many owners. Briefly: The press went first to the Pear Tree Press, then was brought to America by the late Fred Goudy (\$1200 including freight), next to Spencer Kellogg Jr.'s Aries Press about 1926 (\$1500), then to Melbert B. Cary Jr. at his Press of the Woolly Whale in 1928 (price unknown), and, finally, it was bequeathed by Cary, through his will, to George W. Van Vechten Jr. who operates a printing shop in Metuchen, New Jersey. A few weeks ago, one of your editors was in touch with Van. Although he is not using the press, he will not part with it under any conditions; in fact, the rapidity with which he changed the subject proved that he is adamant.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Extension Division in San Francisco has just completed an excellent series of ten lectures and discussions on fine printing and rare books. Because of its outstanding success, it is hoped that a similar series of evening meetings will be offered again. The discussions included: *Beginning of Books*, John Howell; *History and Esthetics of Printing*, James Elliot; *Private Presses and Fine Printing*, Albert Sperisen; *A Visit to the Grabhorn Press*, Edwin and Robert Grabhorn and Albert Sperisen; *Bookbinding and Famous Binders*, John McConnell; *Bibliography and Book Terms*, Henry Evans; *Book Collector and Collecting*, Dr. William Van Wyck; *Americana and Californiana*, Warren Howell; *Modern First Editions*, David Magee; *Allied Fields of Collecting*, Lewis Ferbraché.



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Introduction and notes by Carl I. Wheat

A wise and witty series of letters from the California mines written by an observant New England lady to her sister "back in the States," describing in a charmingly literate style the everyday happenings and hardships—including murders, amputations, and profanity—of the small busy community of the Rich Bar placer camp in 1851. 20 illustrations. *Typography and binding design by W. A. Dwiggins.* 256 pages. \$3.50

ELDORADO
by BAYARD TAYLOR

Introduction by Robert Glass Cleland

An enthusiastic, pithy, flamboyant, terse, colorful, and truly great account of that most turbulent of high adventures—the gold rush—written by a famous newspaperman who was also a poet, artist, man of letters, and student of history. 8 color illustrations. *Typography and binding design by W. A. Dwiggins.* 416 pages. \$5.00

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